

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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O R 261435Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5183

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0203

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MMOL, PINR, IC

SUBJECT: SONIC BUOYS FOUND ON ICELANDIC SHORES

REF: COMICEDEFOR 242104Z AND 251712Z

(BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED)

1. GOI MADE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE FEB 25 CONCERNING
FINDING OF TWO SONIC DEVICES ON COAST OF ICELAND
FEB 20 (REPORTED REFTELS):

(BEGIN QUOTE)

AS HAS BEEN COVERED BY THE MEDIA, THERE HAVE RECENTLY
BEEN FOUND TWO STRANGE BUOYS ON ICELAND'S SOUTH COAST.
IN 1972 A SIMILAR BUOY WAS FOUND IN THE WESTMAN
ISLANDS.

THESE BUOYS SEEM TO BE LISTENING DEVICES TO FOL-
LOW THE MOVEMENTS OF SHIPS AND SUBMARINES AND ARE DE-
SIGNATED TO LAY AT GREAT DEPTHS. THEY SEEM TO BE A
PART OF A SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM WHICH IS CONNECTED BY
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A CABLE TO LAND OR TO A SHIP.

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO TELL WHERE THE ABOVE MENTIONED BUOYS WERE MANUFACTURED BUT VARIOUS PARTS OF THEM SEEM TO BE OF SOVIET ORIGIN. IT IS NOT KNOWN FROM WHERE THESE BUOYS DRIFTED TO ICELAND, BUT BUOYS OF THE SAME KIND HAVE DRIFTED ASHORE IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. (END QUOTE) (END UNCLASSIFIED)

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2. ADMIRAL RICH AND CHARGE MET MORNING OF FEB 25 WITH FONMIN AGUSTSSON AND OFFICIALS OF FON MINISTRY TO BRIEF AGUSTSSON ON WHAT IS KNOWN OF DEVICES. ABOVE PRESS RELEASE WAS ISSUED AS RESULT OF THAT MEETING. AGUSTSSON SEEMED RELAXED AND NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED BY ICELANDIC COAST GUARD THAT SIMILAR DEVICE HAD BEEN FOUND IN 1972 AND TURNED OVER TO IDF.

3. AT FOREIGN MINISTRY REQUEST, BOTH BASE AND EMBASSY HAVE REFUSED ALL COMMENT ON DEVICES WITH EXCEPTION THAT IT WAS AGREED WITH MINISTRY WE COULD CATEGORICALLY DENY THEY WERE OF US ORIGIN. FOLLOWING THIS REQUEST LED TO SOME MISUNDERSTANDING AND GROUNDLESS SPECULATION BY PRESS WHICH LEAPED TO ERRONEOUS CONCLUSION THAT IF WE REFUSED TO COMMENT, WE MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE. IT ALSO LED TO STORIES THAT WE WOULD GRANT NO MEDIA ACCESS TO DEVICES UNTIL GOI HAD INTERVENED TO PRESSURE US TO DO SO. FACT WAS, BASE WAS DIRECTED TO WITHHOLD ACCESS WITHOUT SPECIFIC APPROVAL BY FOREIGN MINISTRY. HAVING REMAINED IN FULL UNDERSTANDING WITH MINISTRY, HOWEVER, WE REGARD MISINTERPRETATION BY PRESS AS MINOR MATTER WHICH WILL BLOW OVER QUICKLY.

4. ICELANDIC SENSITIVITY TO ANY POSSIBLE STATEMENTS BY US SOURCES REFLECTS ONCE AGAIN FONIMIN'S PERHAPS NEEDLESS CONCERN OVER RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS. HOWEVER, US SOURCES OUTSIDE OF ICELAND ARE ALSO REQUESTED TO REFER ANY INQUIRIES TO GOI.

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MARTIN

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